

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

109. (Thrice Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system including [at least] one camera, [an] a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the [at least] one camera and at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of the automatic control system and the [at least] one camera to a selected location capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the [at least] one camera comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of at least two control devices with respective of at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of the [at least] one camera with a control device at a location selected by a respective of at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system a field of view of [at least] the one camera associated in step B;

D. issuing a command from one control device of the at least two control devices to the automatic control system;

E. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step D; [and]

F. automatically moving by the automatic control system the field of view of the [at least] one camera to the field of view position remembered in step C and associated with the control device identified in step E;

G. issuing a command from another of the at least two control devices to the automatic camera system;

H. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step G;

I. automatically moving by the automatic control system the field of view of the [at least] one camera to the field of view position remembered in step C and associated with the control device identified in step H; and

J. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the respective command in steps D and G after respective command has been received by the automatic control system issued.

110. (Amended) The method of Claim 109 wherein step C includes the steps of:

H. issuing commands from each of the control devices of step A to remember a field of view position of [a] the camera.

111. (Amended) The method of Claim 110 wherein step F includes the step of:

I. moving the field of view of [a] the camera to the field of view position remembered in step G associated with the remembered control device of step H that issued the respective command.

112. (Amended) The method of Claim 109 wherein step C includes the step of:

H. remembering the position of [a] the camera field of view with respect to a known reference.

113. (Amended) The method of Claim 112 wherein step H includes the step of:

I. remembering the position of [a] the camera field of view in a first plane.

114. (Amended) The method of Claim 112 wherein step H includes the step of:

I. remembering the position of [a] the camera field of view in two planes.

115. (Amended) The method of Claim 109 wherein step C includes the steps of:

H. remembering specific variables of [a] the camera for each field of view remembered; and

I. automatically recalling the remembered variables when the field of view is recalled in step F.

116. (Amended) The method of Claim 115 wherein step H includes the step of:

J. remembering the iris setting of [a] the camera field of view.

117. (Amended) The method of Claim 115 wherein step H includes the step of:

J. remembering the zoom perspective of [a] the camera field of view.

118. (Amended) The method of Claim 117 further including the step of:

K. automatically maintaining the zoom perspective remembered in step F when [a] the camera field of view is moved in step F.

119. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 115 wherein step H includes the steps of:

J. remembering the position of [a] the camera field of view in at least one plane;

K. remembering the zoom perspective of [a] the camera field of view; and

L. remembering the iris setting of [a] the camera field of view;

120. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 119 wherein step F includes the steps of:

M. moving the position of [a] the camera field of view to the remembered position of step J;

N. changing the zoom perspective of [a] the camera to the remembered position of step K;

and

O. changing the zoom perspective of [a] the camera to the remembered setting of step L.

121. (Amended) The method of Claim 109 further including the step of:

H. issuing a command to override subsequent commands from control devices affecting control of the field of view of [a] the camera.

123. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 109 further including the steps of:

H. controlling the field of view variables of [a] the camera;

I. remembering the field of view variables of [a] the camera that are associated in step C; and

J. automatically establishing for [a] the camera the field of view variables remembered in step I for the field of view position remembered in step C whenever the field of view position is recalled.

126. (Thrice Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a single area in a system [including] having at least two cameras in the single area, [an] a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of each of the at least two cameras [camera] and at least two control devices in the single area being movable respectively by at least two users in the single area independently of the automatic control system and the at least two cameras to [a] selected locations capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of each of the [respective] at least two cameras comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of the at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of each of at least two cameras with a respective control device at locations selected by a respective one of at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system a field of view of each of at least two cameras associated in step B;

D. issuing a command from any of the at least two [a] control devices [that issued the command in step D] to the automatic control system;

E. identifying by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command in step D;

F. associating [each] any of the at least two control devices with a respective first camera of the at least two cameras;

G. associating [each] any of the at least two control devices with a respective second camera of the at least two cameras;

H. changing the field of view position of one of the at least two cameras associated with a field of view remembered in step C to provide a field of view position remembered in step C associated with [a] the control device identified in step E; and

I. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the command of step D after the command has been issued.

127. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 126 wherein step C includes the steps of:

I. issuing commands from each of the at least two control devices to remember different field of view positions of each of the at least two [camera] cameras by the automatic control system.

130. (Amended) The method of Claim 126 further including the steps of:

I. providing by each of at least two [camera] cameras a video output signal; and

J. [selectively providing a camera video output signal from a camera] selecting a video output signal provided in step I.

131. (Amended) The method of Claim 130 wherein the step J includes the step of:

K. automatically selecting the [camera] video output signal associated with the respective second camera of step G.

132. (Amended) the method of Claim 126 wherein step C includes the step of:

I. remembering a specific field of view position that can be recalled by a command from any of the at least two control [device] devices.

134. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 126 further including the steps of:

I. selectively enabling the transmission of an audio signal associated with one or more of the at least two control devices; and

J. automatically selecting which of the at least two control [device] devices will transmit an [A]audio [S] signal.

135. (Amended) The method of Claim 134 further including the step of:

K. automatically selecting the audio signal from the control device identified in step [C] E.

136. (Amended) The method of Claim 135 wherein step K includes the step of:

L. [K] automatically disabling audio signals associated with the at least one control device[s] not selected.

137. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 134 wherein step J includes the step of:

K. automatically selecting audio signals associated with all of the at least two control devices when [a] one control device of the at least two control devices is [listed] identified in step E.

138. (Amended) The method of Claim 134 wherein step I includes the steps of:

K. establishing a plurality of groups of the at least two devices; and

L. selectively enabling audio signals associated with at least one group [of control device] established in step K.

139. (Amended) The method of Claim 138 wherein step J includes the step of:

M. automatically selecting the audio signals associated with the group of control devices enabled in step [J] L.

140. (Amended) The method of Claim 138 wherein step K includes the step of:

M. automatically selecting the audio signals associated with the group of control devices [to] with which the control device of step E [belongs] is one of the group.

141. (Amended) The method of Claim 126 further including the steps of:

I. providing an automatic tracking system for the at least two cameras;

J. issuing a second command for automatic tracking of [a] the control device that issued the command of step D; and

K. controlling the field of view in step [G] H to automatically track the control device of step D.

142. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 wherein step J includes the step of:

L. issuing a command by [a] the control device to provide [the] automatic tracking of the control device only for as long as the command is being continuously issued.

143. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 wherein step [D] J includes the step of:

L. issuing a command by [a] another of the at least two control [device] devices to provide automatic tracking of another control device and [the] cessation of automatic tracking of the [one] control device of step J.

144. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 further including the steps of:

- L. providing by each of the at least two [camera] cameras a video output signal; and
- M. selectively providing a camera video output signal from [a] the at least two cameras [camera].

145. (Amended) The method of Claim 144 wherein step M includes the step of:

- N. automatically selecting the camera video output signal associated with the first camera of step F.

146. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 wherein step C includes the step of:

- L. remembering a specific field of view position for one of at least [one of the] two cameras that can be recalled by a command from any of the at least two control devices [device].

147. (Amended) The method of Claim 146 wherein step L includes the step of:

- M. issuing a command by any of the at least two control devices [device] to change the field of view to the specific field of view position remembered in step C.

148. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 further including the step of:

- L. issuing a command to override subsequent commands affecting [a] control of the field of view of the camera.

149. (Amended) The method of Claim 148 further including the step of:

- M. issuing a command to restore the responsive capability to commands from each of the at least two control devices [device].

150. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 further including the steps of:

- L. remembering field of view variables for one of the at least two control [device] devices is being tracked; and
- M. recalling remembered variables when the one control device is being automatically tracked.

151. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 further including the step of:

L. remembering variables associated with automatic tracking of [a] one of the at least two control [device] devices.

152. (Amended) The method of Claim 151 wherein step L includes the step of:

M. remembering the location in the field of view that [a] the one control device is to be maintained during automatic tracking.

153. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 wherein step J includes the step of:

L. issuing a command by [a] one of the at least two control [device] devices to provide [the] automatic tracking of the one control device only for as long as the command is being continuously issued.

154. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 wherein step J includes the step of:

L. issuing a command by [a] another of the at least two control [device] devices to provide for automatic tracking of the another control device and the cessation of automatic tracking of the control device of step J.

155. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 wherein step K includes the step of:

L. ceasing the automatic tracking of [a] the control device that issued the command of step J when the tracking system has moved to the desired location with the field of view of a camera relative to the control device.

156. (Amended) The method of Claim 141 further including the steps of:

L. selectively enabling the transmission of an audio signal associated with one or more of the at least two [or more] devices; and

M. automatically selecting which of the at least two control [device] devices will [to] transmit an audio signal.

157. (Amended) The method of Claim 156 further including the step of:

N. automatically selecting [a] the audio signal from the control device identified in step E.

158. (Amended) The method of Claim 157 wherein step M includes the step of:

Q. [N] automatically disabling audio signals associated with at least one [a] control device not selected.

159. (Amended) The method of Claim 156 wherein step M includes the step of:

N. automatically selecting audio signals associated with all of at least two control devices wherever any [subject] user is tracked.

160. (Amended) The method of Claim 156 wherein step M includes the steps of:

N. establishing a plurality of groups of the at least two control devices; and

O. selectively enabling audio signals associated with at least one group [of controlling devices] established in step N.

161. (Amended) The method of Claim 160 wherein step M includes the step of:

P. automatically selecting the audio signals associated with the group of control devices enabled in step [N] Q.

162. (Amended) The method of Claim 161 wherein step M includes the step of:

P. automatically selecting the audio signals associated with a group of control devices [to] with which the control device being tracked [belongs] is one of the group.

163. (Thrice Amended) A system for controlling the field of view control variables of any camera in the system comprising [at least one] a camera, a single automatic control means for adjusting said field of view control variables of said [at least one] camera, at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of said automatic control means and said [at least one] camera, said automatic control means including means for associating each of said at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the

respective at least two users and for associating said field of view of said [at least one] camera with said respective control device at a location selected by the respective of at least two users, said control devices being movable to selected locations for sending commands to said automatic control means including first circuit means for identifying one said control device of said at least two control devices in said selected locations that has sent a command to said automatic control means and memory means for identifying each said command sent by said one control device, said command including identity information indicative of respective said one control device which sent said command, said automatic control means remembering said identity information of said one control device after said command has been sent by said one control device to enable said field of view to be moved to one of the fields remembered, said automatic control means further including second circuit means for identifying another said control device of said at least two control devices in said selected location that has sent a command to said automatic control means and memory means for identifying each said command sent by said another control device, said command including identity information indicative of respective said another device which sent said command, said automatic control means remembering said identity information of said another control device after said command has been sent by said another control device to enable said field of view to be moved to one of the fields remembered.

166. (Thrice Amended) A method of controlling the field of view of any camera in a system including [at least] one camera, [an] a single automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the camera and at least two control devices being movable respectively by at least two users independently of the automatic control system and the [at least] one camera to a selected location capable of sending commands to the automatic control system for controlling the field of view of the [at least] one camera comprising the steps of:

A. associating each of at least two control devices with respective at least two users at respective locations selected by the respective at least two users;

B. associating at least one field of view of [a] the camera with a control device at a location selected by a respective at least two users;

C. remembering by the automatic control system the variables that define each field of view of [a] the camera associated in step B;

D. automatically identifying by the automatic control system the field of view variable of a camera a control device associated with the variables remembered in step C;

E. issuing a command from the control device identified in step D;

F. automatically changing the field of view of a camera to the field of view remembered in step C and associated with a control device identified in step D;

G. automatically identifying by the automatic control system the field of view variable another control device associated with the variables remembered in step C;

H. issuing a command from the control device identified in step G;

I. automatically changing the field of view of [a] the camera to the field of view remembered in step C and associated with a control device identified in step G; and

J. remembering by the automatic control system the control device that issued the respective command in steps E and H after a command has been issued.

REMARKS

1-3. Claims 109, 126, 163, and 166 have been further amended to recite that it is “a single automatic control system” which identifies the control devices and “one” camera is employed. Uehara ‘543 employs a separate “system control circuit 32” and “camera 10” for each “operating device 34” as discussed in Col. 2, lines 1-7 and as shown in FIG. 2. In addition, the claims have been amended to recite that the automatic control system is the identifier of the control device. Further, Claim 126 has been amended to set forth that the “at least two cameras” and the “at least two control devices” are located in the same “single area”. Furthermore, the application has been thoroughly reviewed and changes have been made in the claims to conform and to further clarify the nature of the invention.

Accordingly, applicants believe that Claims 109, 126, 163, and 166 as now thrice amended are not anticipated by the Uehara reference and further by reasons and arguments of record.

4-5. Applicants believe that Claims 110-125, 127-137, 141-162 and 164 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and are not obvious in view of Uehara and Parker ‘296. Uehara does not disclose remembering the control device as the Examiner has alleged. Moreover, Parker does not disclose this feature. The present invention not only remembers the device that issued a command but remembers such control device even after another control device has issued a command and does so via a single automatic control system. This is far from remembering the control device only while it is actually sending a command as is the case in Uehara, which utilizes a separate control system command for each control device.

Claims 111-125, 127-137, 141-162 and 164 are believed to be patentable over the art in the same manner as the respective independent claims and by the specific steps recited in the dependent claims.

With regard to Claims 127-137, Claim 126 has been thrice amended in a manner such that is not anticipated by Uehara as discussed hereinabove, and is not obvious even when properly combined with Parker. Claim 127 has been amended to correct an oversight in an earlier amendment.

With regard to Claims 141-162, Claim 141 now depends on Claim 126(Thrice Amended) and is not taught or suggested by the cited art for the reasons stated hereinabove.

With regard to 164, Claim 164 now depends on Claim 163(Thrice Amended), which has incorporated the subject matter of Claim 165 (previously cancelled). Claim 163(Thrice Amended)

recites remembering identifying information that identifies a respective control device. Accordingly, Claims 163(Thrice Amended) and 164 are not anticipated or obvious in view of the cited art.

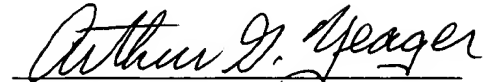
6. Claims 138-140 are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Uehara, Parker and Sano. Claim 138 recites a group of control devices at a single site under control of a single automatic control system as contrasted to Sano's plurality of conference sites. Claims 138-140 are directed to the control of audio signals from the control devices being used, which are not found in any of the applied prior art, nor would it be obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art. Claim 126(Thrice Amended) recites at least two control devices on which Claims 138-140 ultimately depend. In practice there may be several control devices in use and this feature is not found in the prior art.

Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 138-140 are not obvious in light of the cited art.

With respect to all the various individuality treated claims in the above Office Action, while it may be true that Uehara, Parker, and even Sano disclose some of the features of the claims, it is not at all obvious in light of the cited art that they be employed with the features of the other prior art without reference to various methods and steps disclosed and claimed in the present application. The presently claimed system employs both identifying and remembering which control device issues what command so as to coordinate the activities of the system users and does so via a single automatic control system. Accordingly, it is believed that Claims 109(Thrice Amended), 125, 126 (Thrice Amended), 162, 163(Thrice Amended), 164, and Claim 166(Thrice Amended) as well as the other amended claims are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or rendered obvious by any appropriate combination of the cited art under 35 U.S.C. 103.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested to resolve any remaining issue prior to any final action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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